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Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 4:56 PM
To: Clerk of the Board <clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org>
Cc: Tony Estremera <TEstremera@valleywater.org>; Richard Santos <rsantos@valleywater.org>; Rebecca Eisenberg <Reisenberg@valleywater.org>; Nai Hsueh <NHsueh@valleywater.org>; John Varela <jvarela@valleywater.org>; Shiloh Ballard <SBallard@valleywater.org>; Jim Beall <JBeall@valleywater.org>
Subject: Comment for 11/12/25 Board Agenda Item 3.4 Demand/Affordability Study

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Dear Chair Estremera and Board Members,

It is good to see progress on the Water Use Projections, Water Demand Elasticity, and Customer Affordability Study. The Sierra Club looks forward to the final report and we hope there will be an opportunity for meaningful public review.

Please consider the following comments about the study outcomes presented to date. Similar comments were sent to the Water Supply and Demand Management Committee (WSDMC) when this topic was presented on October 27, 2025.

Regarding the Water Use Projections task for this study, more information is needed to support the key takeaway that “Forecast-to-actual water use has been largely accurate, with reduced variance in recent years.” The technical memorandum should include graphs and tables showing projections, actual use, and variance over the past 10-15 years, not just for projections one year out, but also for projections two and three years out. Sharing this data analysis would provide the Board and the public with robust information about the accuracy trends described in this takeaway.

Regarding affordability, one of the task objectives is: “Develop a baseline of affordability for Valley Water to inform future decision-making.” Valley Water should commit to using this baseline to assess the affordability of rate increases going forward. Hopefully, this analysis can be automated to calculate and report affordability metrics as part of the yearly Protection and Augmentation of Water Supplies (PAWS) report. This was discussed by the WSDMC in October and committee members generally supported tracking affordability as part of rate-setting.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Katja Irvin
Guadalupe Group Conservation Chair
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

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